



# The Corps Honors: Lewis and Clark


**T**HE U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has named several vessels to honor the members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

In 1932 the Corps' Kansas City District took delivery of *Captain Meriwether Lewis* and *William Clark*. The boats, named for the leaders of the Corps of Discovery, were virtually identical steel-hulled, oil-fueled, "dustpan" dredges, and were used to deepen and widen the channels of the Missouri River and its tributaries.

Later in the 1930s the Kansas City and Omaha Districts added vessels honoring all four of the expedition's sergeants — Charles Floyd, Patrick Gass, John Ordway and Nathaniel Pryor.

The Corps also purchased a motor launch, *Sacajawea*, and put her to work for the Fort Peck District. In June 1943 an explosion did considerable damage to the little craft, which was named after the Shoshone Indian who served as an interpreter for the expedition.

All the boats provided valuable service to the Corps along the Missouri. All were eventually decommissioned and either sold off or scrapped.

Two of the vessels, however, continue to have useful public functions. *Floyd* is a dry-docked museum in Sioux City, Iowa, and *Lewis* is the Museum of Missouri River History in Brownsville, Neb. Both vessels were designated National Historic Landmarks in 1989. 



*Lewis*, underway on the Missouri River in 1938, survives in Nebraska.



*Clark* and her attendant plant underway, also on the Missouri River.



*Sergeant Floyd*, seen here in 1938, is now a museum in Iowa.